



EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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This Fact Sheet...

- describes the U.S. EPA's Superfund Program
- explains the investigation activities to begin at the site
- explains where to obtain additional site information



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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Indiana
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Superfund Study Begins Lenz Oil Service Site DuPage County, Illinois November 1990

INTRODUCTION

In November 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), will begin a long-term investigation and study of the Lenz Oil Service, Inc. site located in DuPage County, Illinois. The first part of the process, called a Remedial Investigation (RI), will identify the nature and the extent of possible contamination at and near the site. This RI will focus on potential groundwater contamination and remaining soil contamination at the site. The second part of the Superfund process, known as a Feasibility Study (FS), will identify and analyze alternatives for addressing contamination problems uncovered in the RI.

199 Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) have voluntarily agreed to conduct the RI and FS under a Consent Order with U.S. EPA and IEPA. U.S. EPA and IEPA (under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA) will oversee the PRPs' activities at the Lenz Oil site.

This fact sheet describes U.S. EPA's Superfund Program, provides background information on the Lenz Oil site, and summarizes specific activities planned for this site.

Various documents prepared for the site, including the work plan, community relations plan and Superfund program information, are available for review at the information

repositories located near the site (see Available Information on page 4).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON LENZ OIL SERVICE

The Lenz Oil Service facility is located in southeast DuPage County, Illinois. The site is bounded by Jeans Road and Route 83, approximately 600 feet northwest of the Des Plaines River.

From 1960 through 1980, Lenz Oil Services was an oil and solvent storage/transfer operation. In 1981, the IEPA issued permits to develop and operate the facility as a waste management site. In 1985, Lenz Oil was ordered to initiate cleanup actions that included a cleanup plan and a site closure and compliance plan. However, Lenz Oil failed to carry out major portions of the court order, and in April 1986, filed for bankruptcy.

Investigation of the Lenz facility by IEPA revealed that there were drums and tanks stored on the site and that the soil was contaminated by oil and solvent waste. In addition, preliminary results indicated contamination in the groundwater beneath the site which could pose a threat to neighboring private wells and the Des Plaines River.

During 1986, IEPA completed an inventory and sampling of all

drums and tanks at the site. Surface soils, subsurface soils and ground water samples were analyzed for contamination. This investigation revealed that both the soils and the groundwater was contaminated, and could pose a threat to the public health and the environment.

During 1987 and 1988, approximately 21,000 tons of contaminated soil were incinerated. In September 1989, the Lenz Oil site was included as final on the NPL. In September, 1989, the PRPs signed a Consent Order with the U.S. EPA and the IEPA to conduct the RI and FS to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site under the joint oversight of both agencies.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Throughout the Superfund process, U.S. EPA and IEPA are required to keep residents and officials informed about activities at the site and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the decision making process.

In 1986, IEPA began working closely with interested members of the community to keep them abreast of developments at the Lenz Oil site. The community and IEPA formed a review committee to act as a voice

for citizens' questions and concerns and to monitor IEPA's activities. This committee has been an effective liaison between the IEPA and concerned local citizens. Community members have recently expressed a desire to continue with this committee format to pass on information generated during the site investigation. U.S. EPA will work closely with IEPA during the community relations implementation and in meetings with the review committee. IEPA's Mike Orloff will continue to act as coordinator for the review committee and can provide additional information about the committee's activities. His name, telephone number and address are listed in the "Available Information" section at the end of this fact sheet.

The first planning meeting of the Lenz Oil Review Committee met Thursday, November 1, 1990, at the Lemont Village Hall. If you would like to attend future meetings, or for further information on the review committee meetings, please call Mike Orloff.

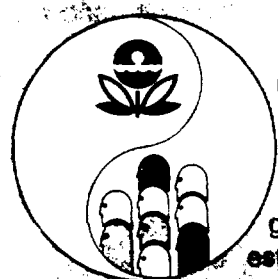
THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The RI field activities will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 involves the installation of new groundwater monitoring wells, sampling and anal-

yses of soils and groundwater at the site. In addition, surface water and soil sediment samples from an adjacent ditch will also be collected and analyzed. In phase 2, groundwater samples from selected nearby residential wells will be collected and analyzed for contamination from the site.

An RI report will be prepared to document the field investigation findings. The report will include: 1) a summary and evaluation of the data collected during the RI; 2) a discussion of the investigation procedures; 3) an evaluation of the nature and extent of contamination; and 4) an assessment of risks to public health and the environment.

An FS for the Lenz Oil site will then be prepared. The FS will define several methods of addressing contamination problems identified during the RI. Remedial alternatives will be evaluated based on their effectiveness in protecting public health and the environment, technical feasibility, reliability, community acceptance and implementation cost. Based on the FS findings, U.S. EPA will recommend an alternative. Local officials and residents will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed alternative before a final decision is made.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS AVAILABLE

U.S. EPA encourages a program which enables groups of interested citizens to obtain assistance in interpreting and understanding data generated during the remedial process. The Technical Assistance Grants, or TAGs, provide up to \$50,000 to community groups wishing to hire consultants to interpret

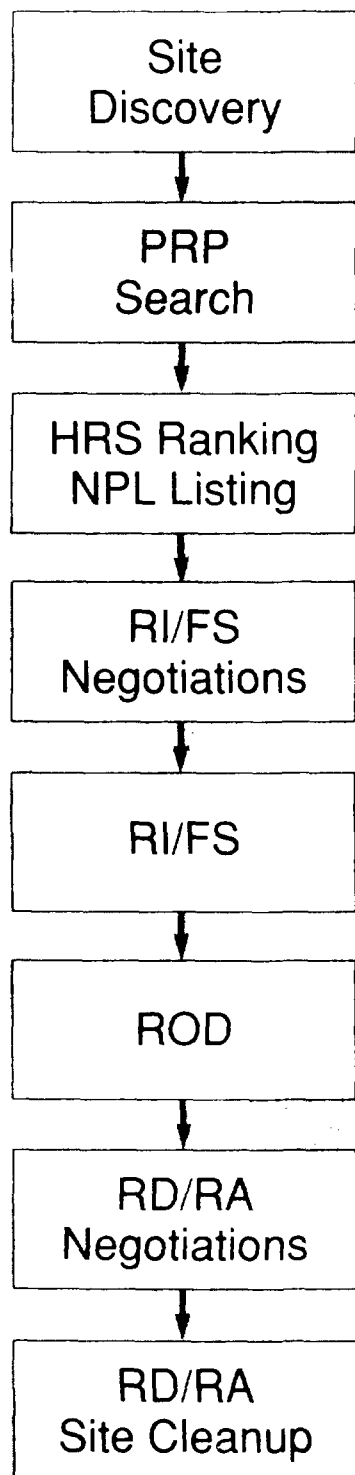
sampling results, reports and other documents. Twenty percent of the requested funding must be matched by the group. For example, if \$50,000 were requested, the group must provide an additional \$10,000 or obtain it from some other source. The matching funds may be paid in in-kind services and may originate from any source. TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field work or lab work. They may be used only to understand or interpret existing docu-

ments and activities conducted at the site.

Municipalities or other governmental agencies are not eligible to receive TAGs. However, government officials may belong to a community group requesting a TAG.

More information about TAGs is available in the Lenz Oil site repositories or from U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago. The U.S. EPA contact for TAG information is Nancy Koop, 312/886-1660.

EPA'S SUPERFUND PROCESS



The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as "Superfund" passed in 1980, and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986, authorizes U.S. EPA to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. CERCLA dedicated \$1.6 billion to the Superfund. In 1986, SARA authorized \$8.5 billion in additional funds to pay for the investigation and cleanup of sites where parties potentially responsible for the contamination are unable or unwilling to clean up the sites. U.S. EPA may then, through legal action, attempt to recover the costs of the investigation and cleanup from the potentially responsible parties to replenish the funds for other Superfund projects. The graphic above provides a simplified view of how a Superfund project, such as the one planned for Lenz Oil, works.

After a site is initially identified, a preliminary assessment and inspection of the site is made. The site is then scored using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS is a numerical scoring system used to prioritize the nation's uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. This system considers possible risks to humans posed by chemicals at the site, potential for release or the actual release of contaminants from the site to the air or drinking water, and possible releases from the site that may harm the environment. If the site gets a score of 28.5 or more, then it is listed on the U.S. EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), and is eligible for assistance under the Superfund program.

After a site is listed on the NPL, an RI and FS are conducted by either the U.S. EPA or by the PRPs under the U.S. EPA's supervision. The RI assesses the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The FS will evaluate various alternatives to address the contamination problems at the site.

When the FS is completed, U.S. EPA evaluates the alternatives identified and recommends a preferred alternative. Members of the community then have the opportunity to submit their comments on the proposed alternatives during a public comment period.

After the comment period ends, com-

ments are considered, addressed, and become part of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site. The ROD is U.S. EPA's formal decision document outlining the decision process and the cleanup remedy selected for the site. The next step in the Superfund process is the design of the cleanup activities specified in the ROD, followed by the actual cleanup of the site.

The time needed to complete each of these steps is different for every site. In general, an RI/FS takes about two years. Design of the long-term cleanup action may take six months to a year. The actual cleanup depends upon the remedy chosen.

Ongoing activities during the Superfund process include:

- **Search for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**
U.S. EPA undertakes a thorough investigation to identify parties who may be legally responsible for waste contamination problems when a site is placed on the NPL. The search for PRPs can, and frequently does, continue throughout the RI/FS process. Once identified, these parties are asked to participate in the cleanup. If they refuse, they may face legal action.
- **Regular Monitoring**
U.S. EPA monitors the site during remedial activities. If contamination becomes an imminent threat to public health or the environment during the RI/FS, U.S. EPA may initiate emergency measures to correct the problem.
- **Community Relations**
Throughout the Superfund process, U.S. EPA and IEPA will disseminate information to keep residents and officials informed about activities at the site. Information repositories are established which contain site-related documents for citizens to review. A toll-free telephone number is listed on the documents, and U.S. EPA and IEPA contacts are established to facilitate communication. A public comment period will be held before a site cleanup decision is made so that citizens can ask questions and voice concerns about the cleanup measures proposed for the site. U.S. EPA considers citizen and IEPA input when making decisions about the cleanup.

Available Information

Anyone interested in more information about the Lenz Oil site is encouraged to review the various documents that have been prepared for the site. Copies of the applicable laws, the work plan for the RI and FS, and the Community Relations Plan are available for review in the information repositories located at:

Burr Ridge Village Hall
7660 S. County Line Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60521

Lemont Village Hall
508 Lemont Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Downers Grove Township Hall
4440 S. Prince
Downers Grove, IL 60515

The following U.S. EPA and IEPA personnel may be contacted if you have further questions:

Mary Ann LaFaire
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs, 5PA-14
(312) 886-1728

Nan Gowda
Remedial Project Manager
5HS-11
(312) 353-9236

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230 S. Dearborn
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Project Manager
Land Pollution Control
Illinois EPA
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62706
(217)782-6760

MAILING LIST ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS

If your address has changed, or you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the Lenz Oil site and you did not receive this in the mail, please fill out and mail this form to:

Mary Ann LaFaire, 5PA-14
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Affiliation: _____



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